

OVER 6,430,000 HEAD

TREMENDOUS RECEIPTS OF LIVE STOCK FOR 1897.

VALUE OVER \$155,000,000.

ALL STOCK YARDS RECORDS WERE BROKEN THIS YEAR.

An Aggregate of 1,827,000 Cattle, 3,223,000 Hogs and 1,140,000 Sheep Received During the Past Twelve Months.

The following figures furnished by the stock yards company show the unprecedented business done during the past year: The receipts for the year were:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
1897	1,827,000	3,223,000	1,140,000
1896	1,714,322	2,965,259	953,126

Increase, '97 over '96, 113,678, 257,741, 186,874.

Not only did they handle more stock at the yards than ever before, but the larger percentage of the gain went to packers, adding increased prestige to the packing interest as well as general live stock trade. Drive-outs for home consumption for the same years were:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
1897	940,779	3,629,848	825,139
1896	894,537	2,950,143	856,727

Increase, '97 over '96, 46,242, 709,705, 128,412.

The horse and mule business also gave a good account of itself during 1897. The combined receipts at the yards and Grand avenue stables for the year being 78,047, against 57,847 in 1896.

In addition, 104,629 calves were received during the year, which is a gain of 5,000 over the preceding year.

A wilderness of pens, a bellowing, squealing babel, an inextricable chaos of galloping centaurs and eddying horses, a profusion of burling messengers and nonchalant cattlemen, big bundles of notes and batches of telegrams, the crack of whips and click of telegraph instruments—these are some of the features of the Kansas City stock yards and they are what make Kansas City the second live stock market in the world, yielding precedence alone to Chicago and being under no obligation to treat either St. Louis or Omaha with any special consideration.

The citizens of Kansas City are probably not as well informed regarding the vastness of the transactions in live stock as the people of the territory which it serves. An ever ready market in Kansas City for the horse and cattle and sheep that fatten on the prairies of the great Southwest. Everybody knows in a general way that a tremendous business is done in Kansas City in the live stock market, but just how big the trade is, is not so generally known.

For instance, an immense amount of real estate has changed hands this year and a great deal of building has been done. But the value of the live stock handled in Kansas City in 1897 was ten times the value of the real estate sold, and it was fifty times the amount put into buildings. Kansas City retail merchants did a \$5,000,000 business in 1897, but the live stock handled in Kansas City in 1897 was more than the entire wholesale trade of the city; it was double the retail trade; it was more than the entire output of the total bank clearings; it was six times the value of the grain handled; it was once and a half greater than the value of the packing house output; it was six times the amount of the agricultural implements sold. Put all the agricultural implements sold in 1897, all the wholesale groceries, all the boots and shoes and dry goods, all the paint and glass and hardware, all the coal and liquors and notions and machinery, all the harness and saddles and clothing and adding to these together and their value will not be equal on a fair estimate to the value of the live stock that was brought to Kansas City and either went into the packing houses or went back to other portions of the West as feeders.

Think of 1,827,000 cattle, 3,223,000 hogs and 1,140,000 sheep pouring into the pens at the Kansas City stock yards in one year. To be sure, it was a banner year, but in 1896 1,714,322 cattle, 2,965,259 hogs and 953,126 sheep were received, and for the past five years the receipts have been over 1,600,000 cattle, 2,900,000 hogs and 900,000 sheep. Year by year the receipts have crept up until 1897 broke nearly every record on the books.

Records Smashed in 1897.

The record for largest receipts in one month in the history of the yards was made in 1897, as follows: Hogs, May, 335,541; sheep, April, 165,825. The previous records were: Hogs, July, 1890, 247,409; sheep, April, 1896, 112,215.

The record for largest receipts in one year was broken straight through, as follows:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
1897	1,827,000	3,223,000	1,140,000
1896	1,714,322	2,965,259	953,126

In addition to the cattle, sheep and hogs received at the yards, 106,000 calves and 37,800 horses and mules were received during the year.

Receipts for '96 and '97 Compared.

The following shows the receipts for the years 1896 and 1897, by months, only the last two weeks of 1897 being estimated, and that very conservatively:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Cars
1896	1,714,322	2,965,259	953,126	113,504
1897	1,827,000	3,223,000	1,140,000	123,127

Estimated

A Mighty Industry.

The stock yards occupy a quarter section of land. That is, a good sized farm is one vast hog and cattle and sheep pen, into which are driven millions of head of live stock each year. If the cattle which were handled at the yards were driven in a hard ten abreast, allowing ten feet for each line or column, the herd would be 205 miles long and would reach from here to Chicago. The 3,223,000 hogs received at the yards in 1897, if driven ten abreast, allowing five feet for each line, would reach 212 miles, and the 1,140,000 sheep driven five abreast, allowing four feet for each line, would reach practically the same distance. That is, if the live stock handled at the yards during the past year were marched out in a solid drive, the cattle and hogs ten abreast and the sheep five abreast, the herd would reach from the rear column had left the Kansas City to Chicago, or from Kansas City to St. Louis and fifty miles beyond, or to Dodge City, Kan., or to Omaha, with a good sized column to spare. The front column of that mighty line could drink from the Chicago watering troughs before the rear column had left the Kansas City pens. Adding the 106,000 calves and the 37,800 horses and mules received at the yards during the year and

the line would extend clear across the state of Kansas. It would swing on a pivot and the front feet could feed in Nebraska, Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, western edge of Colorado, or the Indian territory. These calculations might be multiplied ad infinitum, but they will serve better than have figures to illustrate the magnitude of the business handled at the stock yards.

Growth of the Receipts.

The table below shows the growth of the business at the yards. The value of live stock handled in 1897 was 30 per cent greater than during any previous year, showing that the Kansas City market prices were much better than during the preceding year, notwithstanding the tremendous receipts.

The following table shows the total number of head and the valuation of the live stock handled at the yards during the past twenty-seven years:

Year	No. head	Valuation
1871	1,261,199	\$4,210,000
1872	1,350,109	4,175,000
1873	1,459,031	4,133,269
1874	1,574,146	4,055,327
1875	1,693,071	3,974,473
1876	1,812,000	3,893,619
1877	1,931,000	3,812,765
1878	2,050,000	3,731,911
1879	2,169,000	3,651,057
1880	2,288,000	3,570,203
1881	2,407,000	3,489,349
1882	2,526,000	3,408,495
1883	2,645,000	3,327,641
1884	2,764,000	3,246,787
1885	2,883,000	3,165,933
1886	3,002,000	3,085,079
1887	3,121,000	2,999,225
1888	3,240,000	2,918,371
1889	3,359,000	2,837,517
1890	3,478,000	2,756,663
1891	3,597,000	2,675,809
1892	3,716,000	2,594,955
1893	3,835,000	2,514,101
1894	3,954,000	2,433,247
1895	4,073,000	2,352,393
1896	4,192,000	2,271,539
1897	4,311,000	2,190,685

Total, 83,891,809 \$1,210,125,310.

The capacity of the yards is 55,000 cattle, 30,000 hogs, 15,000 sheep and 2,500 horses.

The live stock industry in Kansas City represents an investment of something like \$50,000,000. The capital stock of the stock yards company alone is \$7,500,000 and twice

that amount is loaned by the Live Stock exchange on cattle owned by ranchers throughout the West and South. One deal consummated during the year just past called for \$400,000 cash. This transaction which would have been a nine days' financial wonder a few years ago, passed almost without comment. The loaning of \$400,000 cash without sending East for the money merely shows the financial strength of the live stock industry.

There are about 2,000 men employed in and about the yards by the company and the 100 (nearly) live stock commission firms in business at the yards.

Where the Receipts Go.

Some idea of the vast extent of the business done by the packing houses may be gathered when it is stated that during the past ten years the packers bought 5,653,922 cattle, nearly half of the 11,000,000 received at the yards in the same length of time. Since 1888 the packers bought 17,747,634 hogs and there were received at the yards 34,826,119 hogs in the same length of time. Of the 17,000,000 hogs, Armour bought 7,234,400, or nearly half, and of the 34,826,119 hogs the same house bought 2,967,062, or almost one-half.

From one-half to three-fourths of the cattle, 50 per cent of the hogs and practically all the sheep received at the yards are bought by packers.

The following is a comparison showing in succinct form the purchases by packers looking at the receipts at the yards for the past ten years:

Year	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
1888	1,261,199	2,169,000	953,126
1889	1,350,109	2,288,000	1,072,242
1890	1,459,031	2,407,000	1,191,358
1891	1,574,146	2,526,000	1,310,474
1892	1,693,071	2,645,000	1,429,590
1893	1,812,000	2,764,000	1,548,706
1894	1,931,000	2,883,000	1,667,822
1895	2,050,000	3,002,000	1,786,938
1896	2,169,000	3,121,000	1,906,054
1897	2,288,000	3,240,000	2,025,170

While Kansas is an unfailing source of supply, it is not the only one. Indeed, Texas, Arkansas and the great Northwest are almost as intimately associated with the Kansas City live stock market as is Kansas itself. In Texas ranchman looks upon this market as his own and live stock has come from far off Oregon, Arizona is comparatively near, while the territory between Kansas City and Chicago contributes large consignments.

Horses and Mules.

The horse and mule market in Kansas City is one of the features of the live stock industry, and during the year the activity in handling more horses and mules than the market at the stock yards. At the latter place 37,800 horses and mules were handled, each doing about half the total business.

The South Grand avenue horse and mule market is a distinct and growing feature of the live stock trade, and during the year handled more horses and mules than the market at the stock yards. At the latter place 37,800 horses and mules were handled, each doing about half the total business.

Large government contracts are filled every year and horses are sent all over the continent and even across the two oceans. A large and growing trade with Spain has been maintained during the present Cuban war and several hundred carloads of horses were shipped to Cuba for the use of the Spanish army. Before he was recalled Captain General Weyler was furnished with a trading horse from the Kansas City market.

The trade is steadily growing and Kansas City is fast becoming known as the greatest horse and mule market in the West. The trade is already greater than those of any city in the country.

The California Limited

Taken up to Los Angeles in only 56 hours

from Santa Fe to El Paso, the best train—best time. Meals always good.

VAST RETAIL TRADE.

AMOUNTED TO \$75,000,000 DURING THE PAST YEAR.

ALL LINES SHOWED INCREASE.

RETAIL MERCHANTS SHARE IN GENERAL PROSPERITY.

People Had More Money to Spend and the Storekeepers Enjoyed a Record-Breaking Trade During the Year—Figures That Prove It Beyond a Doubt.

Kansas City's retail trade during the past year has kept pace with the increase in the wholesale trade. As the people of the territory with which Kansas City maintains its trade relations have had more money to spend, in consequence of the phenomenal harvests and the general betterment of industrial conditions, the business men of Kansas City have been benefited by the influx of money. While the majority of the people in this territory sent their money to Kansas City through their own country merchants, who bought from the Kansas City wholesalers, yet thousands of them came direct to Kansas City and bought from the retail merchants. The general activity acted upon the people of this city as well, and not a retail merchant in the city will concede that his trade was not from 25 to 100 per cent better during 1897 than during the preceding year. Thousands of people living within a radius

Year	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Horses & Mules	Cars
1871	1,261,199	41,038	4,257	909	6,623	12,119
1872	1,350,109	43,671	4,641	1,000	7,142	13,100
1873	1,459,031	46,304	5,024	1,100	7,665	14,081
1874	1,574,146	48,937	5,407	1,200	8,188	15,062
1875	1,693,071	51,570	5,790	1,300	8,711	16,043
1876	1,812,000	54,203	6,173	1,400	9,234	17,024
1877	1,931,000	56,836	6,556	1,500	9,757	18,005
1878	2,050,000	59,469	6,939	1,600	10,280	18,986
1879	2,169,000	62,102	7,322	1,700	10,803	19,967
1880	2,288,000	64,735	7,705	1,800	11,326	20,948
1881	2,407,000	67,368	8,088	1,900	11,849	21,929
1882	2,526,000	70,001	8,471	2,000	12,372	22,910
1883	2,645,000	72,634	8,854	2,100	12,895	23,891
1884	2,764,000	75,267	9,237	2,200	13,418	24,872
1885	2,883,000	77,900	9,620	2,300	13,941	25,853
1886	3,002,000	80,533	10,003	2,400	14,464	26,834
1887	3,121,000	83,166	10,386	2,500	14,987	27,815
1888	3,240,000	85,799	10,769	2,600	15,510	28,796
1889	3,359,000	88,432	11,152	2,700	16,033	29,777
1890	3,478,000	91,065	11,535	2,800	16,556	30,758
1891	3,597,000	93,698	11,918	2,900	17,079	31,739
1892	3,716,000	96,331	12,301	3,000	17,602	32,720
1893	3,835,000	98,964	12,684	3,100	18,125	33,701
1894	3,954,000	101,597	13,067	3,200	18,648	34,682
1895	4,073,000	104,230	13,450	3,300	19,171	35,663
1896	4,192,000	106,863	13,833	3,400	19,694	36,644
1897	4,311,000	109,496	14,216	3,500	20,217	37,625

Total, 83,891,809 \$1,210,125,310.

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